process that will move bilateral relations forward. Pakistan, however, continues to pursue its traditionally negative and hostile approaches towards India.

U.S. suggestion to Pakistan to hand over Indian terrorists

3897. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the latest report, U.S. has proposed to Pakistan that Islamabad should turn over 20 terrorists sought by New Delhi or else try and convict them within Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has rejected U.S.'s move in this regard;

(c) whether India has insisted that until and unless these terrorists wanted by India are handed over, no further talks will continue; and

(d) if so, what are the efforts being made by U.S. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The United States has on a number of occasions stated that it has asked Pakistan to take action against the list of 20 terrorists sought by India. Pakistan has so far taken no steps in this regard.

(c) Government believes that Pakistan must stop sponsoring cross border terrorism against India and take effective action against the list of 20 fugitives in order to create an atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue to take place between the two countries.

(d) The United States has expressed hope for resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan, but has also stated that it docs not seek a mediatory role in this regard.